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## Multi-Faith / Meditation Room Procedure



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**IMPACT ASSESSED:** 30 January 2009

## **1. MULTI-FAITH/MEDITATION FACILITY**

- 1.1 The Multi-faith/Meditation Room is a facility available for all students and staff of any belief or non-belief philosophy.
- 1.2 It is not a facility for homework, research or social activity. It is a space set aside for those of faith, belief systems or non-belief, who wish to engage in prayer, meditation or quiet reflection.
- 1.3 Access to the area will be through request to Student Services and contact will need to be made to the Diversity Manager in the first instance.
- 1.4 Requests for specific reservations for prayer routines will be considered by the Multi-faith Network Team.
- 1.5 The College provides a multi-faith/meditation room for all staff and students to use irrespective of belief or non-belief philosophies.
- 1.6 The College will ensure that at peak times the room is available for quiet prayer or meditation.
- 1.7 Specific requests by faith groups must be referred to the Diversity Manager, as the College will need to ensure that these sessions do not occupy the room at peak times.

## **2. SPECIFIC FAITH COMMUNITIES**

- 2.1 Where specific faith communities have booked the use of the room, the Diversity Manager will ensure that the space and facilities are appropriate.
- 2.2 Sensitivity to faith objects or resources will be adhered to at all times.
- 2.3 Specific faith objects and resources will be stored in a secure cabinet within the room. The key will be available to a nominated student in the group who will be responsible for ensuring that all objects and resources are returned to the cupboard at the end of the session.
- 2.4 The room will have appropriate signage on display for Jerusalem and Mecca.
- 2.5 The washing facilities are adjacent to the room where required by specific faiths.
- 2.6 There will be provision for the storage of shoes if required prior to prayer.
- 2.7 A curtain is available to partition the room in respect of some faith traditions.

### 3 RESOURCES

3.1 The room has allocated storage for resources in respect of particular faiths:

Christianity:	Bible, Crucifix
Hinduism:	Aum, Shrine Set
Judaism:	Tenakh, Kippah, Use of segregation curtain
Islam:	Prayer mat, Qu'ran (Qu'ran to be stored in a high place), Qu'ran stand. Tasbih
Sikhism:	Ik Onkar, Guran Nanak statue, Nitnem (The 5 K's, Kara, comb, Kirpan, Kacchera etc are not supplied)

3.2 KIRPAN: The wearing of the Kirpan (symbol of truth) in the Sikh religion is acknowledged by the College, however for College safety purposes, it is considered that a small replica or symbols word around the neck would be more appropriate. If you wish to wear the full dagger, the College has a blessed box in the reception area, where the dagger can be placed prior to class. Wearers should ensure they speak to the Diversity Manager or a Senior Manager in Student Services in the first instance.

3.3 All resources will be kept in storage within the room and users will be responsible for booking items out and for returning items to the cupboard.

### 4 FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

The College has contacts with local faiths and these contacts are listed in the Multi-Faith Leaflet which is available on reception, and in Student Services.

### 5 SPECIFIC RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES

Where staff or students require to use the room for particular festivals this will need to be negotiated with the Diversity Manager, so that the room is not in use at general peak times.

If necessary, a separate room will be provided for festivals which will require use of the room at peak times.

### 6 MULTI-FAITH NETWORK

The Network will consist of:

- Director of Student Services
- Deputy Director of Student Services
- Diversity Manager
- Tutorial and Enrichment Co-ordinator
- Refectory Manager
- Members of Faith Communities

The Network will meet twice a year to review provision.

## 7 REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Equality and Diversity Committee.

Terminology:

Aum: Symbol supreme power,  
Tenakh: Hebrew/English Bible.  
Kippah: Skull cap,  
Tasbih: prayer beads,  
Ik Onkar: one god symbol,  
Nitnem: holy writings,  
Kirpan: Symbolic dagger